

MILITARY & VETERANS SECTOR UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020



Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this week's telebriefing for military, veterans, and their families!

TELEBRIEFING SCHEDULE UPDATE:

Our telebriefings will now take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Make sure you join us Thursday, January 14th from 10 - 11 AM for another online forum and Q&A. To submit your questions in advance, [click here](#).

Special Thanks to our December 10th Telebriefing Guests:



Hannah Mullins
Executive Director
Helping Paws Foundation
San Diego



Hannah Reyes
Research
Assistant/Recruitment Lead
Operation Warp Speed
(OWS)
The Geneva Foundation

County Resources for Military & Veterans



Visit our [County site for Military/Veterans/Families and Serving Organizations](#)

General COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

Military and Veterans-Specific Frequently Asked Questions – [Click here](#)

In Case You Missed It...



The Helping Paws Foundation helps keep military families united with their pets. Helping Paws provides low and no-cost veterinary care for service members and veterans in need. By keeping pets united with their military families and maintaining stability in these households, Helping Paws can help mitigate the effects of stress and uncertainty that exists due to the demands of military life.

Their efforts work to prevent premature relinquishment and economic euthanasia. Military families can apply to verify their financial hardships and military service. Once approved, pets are able to go to a participating hospital. Helping Paws covers any remainder that qualified military families can't to save their pets. To apply for assistance from Helping Paws, [click here](#). Helping Paws is actively looking for volunteers and donations. To learn more about Helping Paws, [click here](#).

The Geneva Foundation is a non-profit organization that advances military medicine through innovative scientific research, exceptional program management, and a dedication to U.S. service members and veterans, their families, and the global community. Operation Warp Speed (OWS) is a public-



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private partnership, initiated by the federal government of the U.S., to facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. The Geneva Foundation is a subcontractor of OWS to support Phase III clinical trials at military treatment facilities for one or more lead COVID-19 candidates being developed. OWS and the Geneva Foundation are partnered with components of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Department of Defense (DoD). To learn more about the Geneva Foundation, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Study by the Geneva Foundation

The Geneva Foundation is currently enrolling adults for a COVID-19 vaccine study. The AZD1222 COVID-19 vaccine study is researching an investigational vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. The study will examine how safe the investigational vaccine is and how well it works.

You may be able to participate if you:

- Are in good or stable health (you may have an underlying medical condition and still take part if your disease is stable)
- Have an increased risk of getting COVID-19
- Do not have a previously confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19

To learn more about the AZD1222 COVID-19 vaccine study, please call (253) 341-6007 or e-mail covidnmcscd@genevausa.org.

Events and Announcements

Courage to Call is hosting a drive-thru feeding and diaper distribution event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at National University on 9388 Lightwave Ave, San Diego, 92123. Food is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. No RSVP Required, but please bring your Military/Veteran ID.

SDVC Monthly Meeting active duty military, veteran's and their families are invited to attend the San Diego Veteran's Coalition's next monthly meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan 8. For details, visit sdvetscoalition.org.

Wellness Wednesday is an virtual event hosted by Courage to Call to teach military members, veterans, and their families about wellness topics and helpful resources every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. To participate in Wellness Wednesday, visit the [Courage to Call Facebook page](#) and join through Facebook Live.

COVID-19 Vaccine: Who is Getting it First?

The novel coronavirus vaccine is expected to arrive in San Diego County soon. Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine will be done in three phases. Phase 1A-1C will be distributed to critical care health workers, long-term care facility residents and

employees, essential workers, adults with underlying medical conditions, and people over the age of 65. Phase 2 will be distributed to children and young adults under the age of 30 and critical workers not included in Phase 1. Phase 3 of the vaccine will be available to people of all ages who live in the United States.

The County is expected to get about 28,000 doses of a vaccine made by Pfizer in the next few days, after it receives emergency use authorization. As other pharmaceutical companies receive emergency use authorization, more vaccines will arrive in the region.

The Pfizer vaccine coming to San Diego County is administered via two shots in the arm and research has shown that it's about 95% effective. Once people in the United States start to get vaccinated, the CDC will expand its safety surveillance to make sure the vaccine is working as it should.

To read the full *County News Center* story, [click here](#). For the latest emergency updates, [click here](#). To learn more information about COVID-19 and the County's detailed data summaries, [click here](#).

Stay Home Order Issued as Region's ICU Capacity Drops Below 15%

The Southern California intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity has dropped below 15%, and the state has required San Diego County to implement a Regional Stay Home Order that prohibits gatherings of any size and closes operations in multiple sectors, including restaurants, bars, wineries, and personal services.

The current ICU capacity for the Southern California region, which includes San Diego and 10 other counties, is now 11.6%. The order went into effect on Monday, Dec. 7th and will last for at least three weeks or until the region's capacity meets or exceeds 15%. The order will be assessed by the state on a weekly basis after the three-week period.

Essential businesses such as supermarkets, grocery stores, laundromats, and pharmacies will remain open. Parks, beaches, and hiking and bike trails will also remain open. Other outdoor activities are also permitted, but a face mask and social distancing is required.

To read the full *County News Center* story, [click here](#). To learn more about the Regional Stay Home Order, [click here](#).

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week!

December 6th-12th is National Influenza Vaccination Week! The holiday season is also flu season, and many traditional holiday activities can increase the risk of catching the flu. Now is a great time to get a flu vaccine if you have not gotten vaccinated yet.

It is also possible to get the flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Common symptoms of both the flu and COVID-19 are fever, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, body aches, runny nose, headache, and sore throat.

Q: Why should I get the flu shot?

A: It reduces the chances of getting the flu or severity of complications. There is a well-documented risk of flu in vulnerable populations: residents and employees at long-term care facilities, elderly, and those with underlying conditions. The CDC recommends everyone over the age of 2 get an annual flu vaccine.

Scan this QR code with your phone:



Q: Does the flu shot protect me if I was exposed to COVID-19?

A: Higher seasonal flu vaccination rates in the elderly (65+) are correlated with fewer deaths from COVID-19. In addition to getting the flu shot, following physical distancing guidelines and wearing a facemask can help reduce exposure to COVID-19 and the seasonal flu.

Q: Where can I get my flu shot?

A: Use the [VA Facility Locator](#) to find information on hours and locations for your local VAMC and find an in-network retail pharmacy or urgent care facility.

To read more FAQ's about flu shots, [click here](#). To learn more about the 2020-21 flu season, [click here](#). Scan the QR code to find a flu shot location near you!

County of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The County of San Diego Emergency Rental Assistance Program provides grants of up to \$3,000 to cover a maximum of two month's rent for eligible households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications can be submitted starting December 1, 2020. The County will continue to take applications until funds are depleted. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and assistance will be paid directly to the landlord.

Eligible participants must live in San Diego County and have a household income at or below 60% Area Median Income as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Households must have experienced a financial hardship directly related to COVID-19. To learn more or apply for the Rental Assistance Program, [click here](#).

Small Business Stimulus Grants for San Diego County—Application Open

The Small Business Stimulus Grant Program is funded by Board of Supervisors allocated federal CARES Act funding. The grant funding provides economic assistance to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. Financial assistance

will be allocated to eligible, qualified small businesses with final award recommendations made by individual district offices based on the availability of funds, program guidelines, and the submission of all required information and supporting documentation. To learn more or apply for the Small Business Stimulus Grant, [click here](#).

Mental Health Resources

Courage To Call. Every day, current and former service members and their families deal with the complex maze of issues that accompanies military life. Often times the most difficult problem is not knowing where to turn when you need help. Courage to Call is a free, confidential, veteran-staffed, 24/7 helpline dedicated to assisting active duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, guard members, and their families, regardless of discharge status. For more information or to chat with a veteran, visit www.courage2call.org, or call 1-877-698-7838, or 2-1-1.

The County's Access and Crisis Line (ACL) is confidential, toll-free, and available 24/7. If you or someone you care about is experiencing a suicidal or mental health crisis, please call 1-888-724-7240.

VA Veteran Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone, or Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

More resources to help you manage mental health and cope during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found [here](#).



Additional County of San Diego COVID-19 telebriefings are available throughout the week (via Zoom) for a variety of community sectors. For information, updates, and Q&A with other sectors, view the full telebriefing schedule [here](#).

COVID-19 Resources



To request English or Spanish posters for your installation, please e-mail COVID-Military-Veterans@sdcounty.ca.gov with your contact information, drop-off location, and delivery instructions. A member of our Outreach & Education Team will contact you to coordinate delivery and obtain any additional details (if necessary).

Additional resources and materials are available [here](#) for your use.

Continue to Stay Informed



[County Coronavirus Website](#)



[Resources for Military,
Veteran's & their Families](#)



[Resources & Materials](#)



[Testing Information](#)

